

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as written below.

What is claimed:

1. (Currently Amended) A decorative assembly for supporting a floral grouping, the decorative assembly comprising:

a preformed shape-sustaining support member selectively movable between a ~~flattened~~ collapsed condition and an expanded condition, in the expanded condition the preformed shape sustaining support member having an open upper end, an open lower end and a peripheral sidewall defining an internal chamber extending between the open upper end and the open lower end thereof, the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member having ~~oppositely disposed creases~~ at least one crease formed thereon, ~~each of the oppositely disposed creases extending substantially from the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to the open lower end thereof~~ for permitting the preformed shape-sustaining support member to be disposed in the ~~flattened~~ collapsed condition for storage and transportation, the preformed shape-sustaining support member further having a stabilizing member for stabilizing and maintaining the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition;

a sheet of fluid impermeable material disposed about the preformed shape-sustaining support member to provide a decorative cover for the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the sheet of fluid impermeable material

sized so that when the decorative cover is formed about the preformed shape-sustaining support member, ~~a portion of the decorative cover extends a distance above the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member,~~ the decorative cover ~~cooperating~~ cooperates with the internal chamber of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to define a reservoir for confining a liquid; and

a securing element for securing the decorative cover about the preformed shape-sustaining support member while maintaining at least a portion of the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member substantially uncovered by the decorative cover.

2. (Original) The decorative assembly of claim 1 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is provided with a substantially frusto-conical configuration when the preformed shape-sustaining member is in the expanded condition.

3. (Currently Amended) The decorative assembly of claim 2 wherein the stabilizing member comprises an elastic member having a first end portion and an opposed second end portion and wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member has oppositely disposed creases formed thereon wherein each of the oppositely disposed creases extends substantially from the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to the open lower end thereof, the first end portion of the elastic member connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be disposed substantially adjacent one of the creases formed in the peripheral

sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member and the opposed second end portion of the elastic member connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be disposed substantially adjacent the oppositely disposed crease formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining member so that when the elastic member is placed under tension, the preformed shape-sustaining support member is moved to the ~~flattened~~ collapsed condition and upon removal of tension on the elastic member, the preformed shape-sustaining support member moves to the expanded condition.

4. (Original) The decorative assembly of claim 3 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.

5. (Original) The decorative assembly of claim 1 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.

6. (Currently Amended) The decorative assembly of claim 1 wherein the stabilizing member comprises an elastic member having a first end portion and an opposed second end portion and wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member has oppositely disposed creases formed thereon wherein each of the oppositely disposed creases extends substantially from the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to the open lower end thereof, the first end portion of the elastic member connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be disposed substantially adjacent one of the creases formed in the peripheral

sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member and the opposed second end portion of the elastic member connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be disposed substantially adjacent the oppositely disposed crease formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining member so that when the elastic member is placed under tension, the preformed shape-sustaining support member is moved to the ~~flattened~~ collapsed condition and upon removal of tension on the elastic member, the preformed shape-sustaining support member moves to the expanded condition.

7. (Original) The decorative assembly of claim 6 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.

8. (Currently Amended) A floral holding material comprising:

a preformed shape-sustaining support member selectively movable between a ~~flattened~~ collapsed condition and an expanded condition, in the expanded condition the preformed shape sustaining support member having an open upper end, an open lower end and a peripheral sidewall defining an internal chamber extending between the open upper end and the open lower end thereof, the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member having ~~oppositely disposed creases~~ at least one crease formed thereon, ~~each of the oppositely disposed creases extending substantially from the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to the open lower end thereof~~ for permitting the preformed shape-sustaining

support member to be disposed in the ~~flattened~~ collapsed condition for storage and transportation, the preformed shape-sustaining support member further having a stabilizing member for stabilizing and maintaining the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition.

9. (Currently Amended) The floral holding material of claim 42 8 wherein the preformed, shape-sustaining support member is provided with a substantially frusto-conical configuration when the preformed, shape-sustaining member is in the expanded condition.

10. (Currently Amended) The floral holding material of claim 42 8 wherein the stabilizing member comprises an elastic member having a first end portion and an opposed second end portion and wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member has oppositely disposed creases formed thereon wherein each of the oppositely disposed creases extends substantially from the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to the open lower end thereof, the first end portion of the elastic member connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be disposed substantially adjacent one of the creases formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member and the opposed second end portion of the elastic member connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be disposed substantially adjacent the oppositely disposed crease formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining member so that when the elastic member is placed under tension, the preformed shape-sustaining support member is moved to the ~~flattened~~ collapsed condition and upon removal

of tension on the elastic member, the preformed shape-sustaining support member moves to the expanded condition.

11. (Currently amended) The floral holding material of claim ~~44~~ 10 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.

12. (Currently Amended) The floral holding material of claim ~~42~~ 8 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.

13. (Newly Added) The decorative assembly of claim 1 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member has oppositely disposed creases formed thereon, and wherein each of the oppositely disposed creases extends substantially from the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to the open lower end thereof.

14. (Newly Added) The decorative assembly of claim 1 wherein a portion of the decorative cover extends a distance above the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member.

15. (Newly Added) The decorative assembly of claim 1 wherein the sheet of fluid impermeable material is formed into a bag.

16. (Newly Added) The floral holding material of claim 8 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member has oppositely disposed creases formed thereon, and wherein each of the oppositely disposed creases extends substantially from the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to the open lower end thereof.

17. (Newly Added) A decorative assembly for supporting a floral grouping, the decorative assembly comprising:

a preformed shape-sustaining support member selectively movable between a collapsed condition and an expanded condition, in the expanded condition the preformed shape sustaining support member having an open upper end, an open lower end and a peripheral sidewall defining an internal chamber extending between the open upper end and the open lower end thereof, the preformed shape-sustaining support member further having a stabilizing member for stabilizing and maintaining the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition;

a sheet of fluid impermeable material disposed about the preformed shape-sustaining support member to provide a decorative cover for the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the sheet of fluid impermeable material sized so that when the decorative cover is formed about the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the decorative cover cooperates with the internal chamber of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to define a reservoir for confining a liquid; and

a securing element for securing the decorative cover about the preformed shape-sustaining support member.

18. (Newly Added) The decorative assembly of claim 17 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member has oppositely disposed creases formed thereon, and wherein each of the oppositely disposed creases extends substantially from the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to the open lower end thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The decorative assembly of claim 18 wherein the stabilizing member comprises an elastic member having a first end portion and an opposed second end portion, the first end portion of the elastic member connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be disposed substantially adjacent one of the creases formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member and the opposed second end portion of the elastic member connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be disposed substantially adjacent the oppositely disposed crease formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining member so that when the elastic member is placed under tension, the preformed shape-sustaining support member is moved to the ~~flattened~~ collapsed condition and upon removal of tension on the elastic member, the preformed shape-sustaining support member moves to the expanded condition.

20. (Newly Added) The decorative assembly of claim 17 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.

21. (Newly Added) The decorative assembly of claim 17 wherein a portion of the decorative cover extends a distance above the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member.

22. (Newly Added) The decorative assembly of claim 17 wherein the sheet of fluid impermeable material is formed into a bag.